

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00811 290404Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /045 W
----- 054218

R 281420Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2733

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

S E C R E T GEORGETOWN 0811

E O 11652: XGDS-4 (IMPTDET)

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GY

SUBJECT: REQUESTS INCREASE FOR U.S. INTERVENTION IN GUYANA'S
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. SUMMARY: AN INCREASING NUMBER OF GUYANESE HAVE RECENTLY PAID VISITS TO THE EMBASSY SEEKING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. GOVT IN BRINGING ABOUT POLITICAL CHANGES IN GUYANA. THEY PROFESS TO BE ANTI-COMMUNISTS INTERESTED IN BRINGING A WESTERN-ORIENTED GOVT AND A CAPITALIST ECONOMY BACK TO GUYANA, BUT THEY APPEAR TO BE POORLY ORGANIZED AND OVERCONFIDENT. EMBOFFS, WHILE EXPRESSING INTEREST IN RECEIVING INFORMATION FROM SUCH GROUPS, HAVE CONSISTENTLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO MONETARY OR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE USG SINCE IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO INTERFERE IN SUCH A SITUATION. THESE VISITS REFLECT A GROWING FRUSTRATION AMONG GUYANESE DISSATISFIED WITH THE COUNTRY'S MARXIST LENINIST COURSE. SINCE POLITICAL CHANGE THROUGH THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED BY THEM TO BE POSSIBLE, MANY OF THEM SEE EMIGRATION OR VIOLENT OPPOSITION AS THEIR ONLY REMAINING ALTERNATIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. A TOTAL OF ROUND TWENTY GUYANESE, MOST BUT NOT ALL OF EAST INDIAN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GEORGE 00811 290404Z

DESCENT, HAVE RECENTLY PAID VISITS TO THE MBASSY REQUESTING

MONEY AND EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST THEM IN RESTORING A PRO-WESTERN GOVT AND A CAPITALIST ECONOMY TO GUYANA. AT LEAST TWO HAVE MADE SIMILAR PITCH TO VENEZUELAN EMBASSY. THESE VISITORS, WHO COME INDIVIDUALLY AND IN SMALL GROUPS, ALL CLAIM TO BE ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ARE OPPOSED TO BOTH THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) AND THE PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC). THEY ADMIT THAT THE ACTUAL MEMBERSHIP OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS IS SMALL, DUE IN PART TO THEIR COVERT OR SEMI-COVERT NATURE, BUT THEY MAINTAIN THAT THEY REPRESENT THE FEELINGS OF A LARGE NUMBER OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN. MANY OF THESE PERSONS ARE FROM THE BERBICE-AREA WHERE EAST INDIANS ARE PREDOMINANT.

3. ONE OF THESE GROUPS IS THE RECENTLY FORMED RAMA KHAN MOVEMENT (SUPPOSEDLY NAMED FOR GUYANA'S FIRST HINDU AND MOSLEMEAST INDIAN INDENTURED WORKERS). LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THIS COVERT GROUP COMPRISED MAINLY OF EAST INDIANS, BUT IT IS SUPPOSEDLY ORGANIZING A POSTER CAMPAIGN FOR MAY 5 WHICH WILL DEMAND AUTONOMY FOR THE BERBICE REGION. ANOTHER SUCH GROUP, MORE VIOLENTLY INCLINED BUT WITHOUT APPARENT SEPARATIST TENDENCIES, CALLS ITSELF THE BERBICE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION. THE RAMA KHAN MOVEMENT ALLEGEDLY BELIEVES THAT THE GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE (GDF) IS TIED DOWN ALONG THE VENEZUELAN BORDER WHERE A NUMBER OF SKIRMISHES HAVE SUPPOSEDLY TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY, AND THAT BECAUSE OF THIS, THE TIME IS RIGHT TO MOVE AGAINST THE GOVT. THEY NAMED SIR LIONEL LUCKHOO (LAWYER, DIPLOMAT, AND FORMER POLITICIAN), J.O.F. HAYNES (CHANCELLOR OF THE JUDICIARY), AND SIR JOHN CARTER (GUYANA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA), AS POTENTIAL REPLACEMENTS SHOULD THE PRESENT TOP GOVT LEADERS BE OVERTHROWN, THOUGH THEY MADE NO CLAIM ANY OF THESE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR MOVEMENT.

4. TWO OTHER RECENT CALLERS WERE FROM GEORGETOWN ITSELF. THEY REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IN THEIR PLAN TO OPENLY CHALLENGE THE RULING PNC IN AN UPCOMING ELECTION IN PM BURNHAM'S OWN GUYANA LABOR UNION (GLU) WHOSE MEMBERS ARE, THEY CLAIM, UNHAPPY WITH THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH ONE OF THE MEN, AN AFRO-GUYANESE, PRESENTLY HOLDS A LEADERSHIP POSITION IN THAT UNION, OTHER LABOR SOURCES INFORM US THAT THE GLU STILL STRONGLY BACKS THE PNC.

5. ALTHOUGH SUCH VISITORS ARE NOT DISCOURAGED FROM PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE EMBASSY, THEY ARE CONSISTENTLY INFORMED THAT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GEORGE 00811 290404Z

IT IS NOT THE POLICY OF THE USG TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF A NATION WITH WHICH WE MAINTAIN CORRECT RELATIONS AND NORMAL DIPLOMATIC TIES. THEY ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT NO FUNDS OR SUPPLIES WILL BE FORTHCOMING AND THAT THEY MIGHT ATTRACT THE UNFAVORABLE ATTENTION OF THEIR OWN GOVT BY TOO FREQUENT VISITS TO THE EMBASSY.

6. COMMENT: MANY OF THE DISSIDENTS RESIDE AND OPERATE IN THE

PREDOMINANTLY EAST INDIAN BERBICE AREA, AND SEEM TO BE STRONGLY MOTIVATED BY RACIAL PREJUDICE AS WELL AS BY ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS. WHILE THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF CONSIDERABLE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT GOVT, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE EAST INDIANS, SUCH OPPOSITIONS GROUPS APPEAR TO BE FRAGMENTED, POORLY ORGANIZED AND UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED IN THEIR INCHOATE PLANS TO OVERTHROW THE GOVT. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THESE CALLERS MIGHT BE ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE GOG IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE USG WOULD SUPPORT SUCH GROUPS. THE GOG IN ANY CASE APPEARS TO BE ALERT TO THE POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE AND IS AWARE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS. (ONE MAN STATED THAT HIS HOUSE HAD RECENTLY BEEN SEARCHED UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR WEAPONS BY THE POLICE.)

7. WHAT IS EVIDENT FROM THESE VISITORS IS THE GENERAL FEELING THAT POLITICAL CHANGE IN GUYANA CAN NO LONGER BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE EXISTING ELECTORAL PROCEDURES BECAUSE OF PAST EVIDENCE OF MASSIVE ELECTORAL FRAUD BY THE RULING PNC, THE LACK OF NON-MARXIST-LENINIST LEADERSHIP AND UNITY, AND THE PNC'S GROWING SUPREMACY OVER THE GOVT. MANY GUYANESE HAVE REGISTERED THEIR DISSATISFACTION BY EMIGRATING DESPITE RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXPORT OF THEIR FINANCIAL ASSETS. SOME OF THOSE DISGRUNTLED CITIZENS WHO RECENTLY HAVE

BECOME INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED AND TURN TO VIOLENCE AS THE ONLY WAY LEFT TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION AND NATURE OF THEIR GOVT. INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM COULD ENCOURAGE MOB ACTION SIMILAR TO THE DISTURBANCES IN THE EARLY 1960'S, BUT OF LESSER MAGNITUDE, DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST MEMBERS OF A DIFFERENT RACIAL GROUP. SUCH VIOLENCE COULD BE LAID AT OUR DOOR, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH IT, GIVEN THE PERCEPTION BY BURNHAM AND SOME OTHER PNC PRINCIPALS THAT THE USG IS ORCHESTRATING A DESTABILIZATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST GUYANA. IT MIGHT EASILY PROVOKE COUNTER-VIOLENCE BY PNC ELEMENTS AGAINST USG EMPLOYEES OR INSTALLATIONS. END COMMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 GEORGE 00811 290404Z

KREBS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INTERVENTION, POLICIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GEORGE00811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760164-0069
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760412/aaaaajjh.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUESTS INCREASE FOR U.S. INTERVENTION IN GUYANA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006